(b) and (c) Exports to general currency area during April-February 1992-93 have registered an increase of 10.48% over April-February 1991-92 which is higher than the growth of 6.86% registered in April-February 1991-92 over the corresponding period of 1990-91.

(d) In order to achieve the 8th Plan export target including that for 1993-94, the Government have taken major steps for liberalisation of trade which includes provisions of export linked imports, reduction of import licensing and strengthening export incentives and removal of procedural irritants through simplification of policy and procedures. In 1993-94 budget, the system of market determined exchange rate has been introduced and customs and excise duties on many raw material and capital goods have been reduced. The interest rate on rupee export credit has been reduced by one percentage point i.e. from 14% to 13% and the interest tax on export credit from banks has been waived. Banks have been asked to ensure that exports credit amounts to at least 10% of the total advances. Besides, 34 commodities have been identified as 'Extreme Focus' sector aimed at value or volume increase of 30% every year, in exports.

(e) Imports during April-February 1992-93 have registered an increase of 13.14% in dollar terms as compared to April-February 1991-92. The increase in April-January 1992-93 as compared to April-January 1991-92 was of the order of 14.61% in dollar terms.

(f) Trade deficit during April-February 1992-93 is estimated US $ 3504.42 million. This is higher than the trade deficit of US $ 1637.63 million during April-February 1991-92 but lower than trade deficit of US $ 5872.67 million during April-February 1990-91. During 1991-92 the trade deficit was low due to severe import compression. The imports are of a more normal level during the current year.

आयात और निर्यात में वृद्धि

27. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
श्री वीरेन जे. शाह :

क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान आयात और निर्यात में क्रमशः 3% तथा 14% की वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उस वर्ष के लिए निर्यात का लक्ष्य 13 प्रतिशत निर्धारित किया गया था;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि आयातों में वृद्धि और निर्यातों में कमी होने के कारण विदेशी व्यापार में घाटे का अंतर गत वर्ष की तुलना में और अधिक हो गया है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो मार्च, 1993 में घाटे की राशि कितनी आंकी गई थी; और

(च) क्या सरकार ने वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान देश में कुल आयात की वस्तुओं में तैयारशुदा वस्तुओं और कच्चे माल के मूल्य का अनुमान लगाया है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) और (ख) अप्रैल--फरवरी, 1992-93 वह नवीनतम अवधि है जिसके निर्यात तथा आयात के आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं और वर्ष 1991-92 की उसी अवधि की तुलना में इस नवीनतम अवधि में अमरीकी डालर के रूप में निर्यात और आयात में 2.81% तथा 13.14% की वृद्धि हुई है ।

(ग) वर्ष 1992-93 के कुल निर्यात लक्ष्य का उद्देश्य, पिछले वर्ष के निष्पादन की तुलना में अमरीकी डालर के रूप में 12.8% की वृद्धि करना है ।

(ब) और (ड) अप्रैल—फरवरी, 1992-93 के दौरान व्यापार घाटा 3504.42 मिलियन अमरीकी डालर होने का अनुमान है। यह व्यापार घाटा अप्रैल—फरवरी, 1991-92 के दौरान हुए 1637.63 मिलियन अमरीकी डालर होने का अनुमान अधिक है किन्तु अप्रैल—फरवरी, 1991-92 के दौरान हुए 1637.63 मिलियन अमरीकी डालर के व्यापार घाटे से कम है। अप्रैल—मार्च, 1992-93 के लिए व्यापार आंकड़े अभी उपलब्ध नहीं हो सके हैं।

(च) अप्रैल—दिसम्बर, 1992-93 वह नवीनतम अवधि है जिसके लिए कच्चे माल तथा तैयार उत्पादों के आयात के आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं तथा यह आंकड़े क्रमशः 8047.54 मिलियन तथा 8582.92 मिलियन अमरीकी डालर हैं। प्रतिशतता के रूप में कुल आयातों में कच्चे माल का भाग 48.4% तथा तैयार उत्पादों का 51.6% बैठता है।

Problems over Intellectual Property Rights

28. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is regarded by the U.S. Government as one of the countries with which the U.S.A. has problems over the protection of Intellectual Property Rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Central Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) released its annual report on Foreign Trade Barriers on 31st March, 1993. The chapter on India allege; inter alia that India's intellectual property protection particularly on patents is weak, specifically with respect to non-availability of product patent protection in the areas of food, chemicals and pharmaceuticals; inadequate term of protection; and stringent compulsory licensing provisions.

Intellectual property rights issues are being negotiated in the Uruguay Round. Government have communicated to the U.S. that the Uruguay Round negotiations provide the best mechanism for resolving these issues.

Supply to Diesel to Fishing Industry by MPEDA

29. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether MPEDA is operating a scheme to supply diesel oil to fishing industry on subsidised cost in Vishakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details of this scheme;

(c) what are the names of companies which have availed of this scheme in 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(d) the extent of funds released so far;

(e) whether it is a fact that the industry has expressed dissatisfaction at the scheme; and

(f) what steps are being taken to streamline this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) MPEDA is operating a scheme to reimburse a part of the cost of diesel oil consumed by deep sea fishing vessels whose catches are exported by the owner of the vessel. The salient features of the scheme are as follows :—

1. The Scheme aims at reimbursing a part of the cost of HSD consumed by deep sea fishing vessel so as to make the effective price comparable to international price and thereby increase the capacity of Indian deep sea vessel operators to complete with its counterparts abroad in international markets.